



## H.R. 5938 – FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5938 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Conyers (D-MI) on May 1, 2008. The House Committee on the Judiciary agreed to the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 5, 2008.

H.R. 5938 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 9, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 5938 provides U.S. Secret Service protection for former Vice Presidents, their spouses, and their children under age 16 for six months from the date the Vice President leaves office.

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### BACKGROUND

The U.S. Secret Service was founded in 1865 as a branch of the U.S. Department of Treasury to contend with the counterfeiting of currency. Following the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, the Secret Service was given a second mission of providing protection to the President.

Currently, the Secret Service is authorized to protect the President, Vice President, the President- and Vice President- elect, and their immediate families. They also protect former presidents, their spouses, and children until age 16. Former Vice Presidents are not entitled to Secret Service protection, however it can be extended to them by executive order or an act of Congress.

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### COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), "Based on information provided by the Secret Service, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5938 would cost about \$4 million in fiscal year 2009, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. If the next Vice President leaves office after one term, then we estimate that the Secret Service would spend about \$4 million in fiscal year 2013 to protect the outgoing Vice President and his or her family. Otherwise, costs for the next Vice President would be incurred in 2017." (CBO Cost Estimate)

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### STAFF CONTACT

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